SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Will the Hon. Minister for Animal Husbandry be pleased to state . . ."

AN HON. MEMBER :—" He is not the Minister for Animal Husbandry. He is Minister in charge of Prohibition, etc."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" I am sorry; I thought it was his portfolio. Will the Hon. Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state whether there are any instances anywhere in the State where wet lands were acquired for the purpose of house-sites for Harijans? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Yes, Sir. There are certain instances."

Modification of the existing system of local administration.

* 532 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have under consideration any proposal for the modification of the existing system of local administration; and

(*b*) if so, the salient features of the new proposals?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASWAMI PADAYACHI :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir. The proposal under consideration is the decentralization of the functions of the district boards by constituting local boards for smaller units, namely, taluks.

" (*b*) The scheme is still under consideration."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, immediately after the ex-Minister for Local Administration assumed office, he proclaimed the policy of the Government and gave a skeleton of his views in the newspapers. Subsequently, for repeated questions, he gave us to understand that the appointment of the Committee to go into the question was almost imminent. May I know when the Government will face the problem squarely and take concrete steps to implement their scheme? "

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASWAMI PADAYACHI :—" The question of appointment of the Committee is under consideration. As soon as a Committee is appointed, Government will take steps to implement the suggestions made by hon. Members in the House."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" தாலூகா போர்டுகள் ஏற்படுத்துவதை பற்றி ஜில்லா போர்டுகள் தேர்தலுக்கு முன்பாக, அரசாங்கம் கவனம் செலுத்துவார்களா ? அல்லது ஜில்லா போர்டு தேர்தல் முடிந்த பிறகு கவனம் செலுத்துவார்களா ? "

THE HON SRI S. S. RAMASWAMI PADAYACHI :—" ஜில்லா போர்டு தேர்தல் முடிந்த பிறகு அதைப்பற்றி கவனம் செலுத்தப்படும்."

SRI S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM :—" Sir, it has been stated that the appointment of the Committee and amendments to the Local Boards Act are under consideration. May I know when Government are going to appoint the Committee at least? "

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THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASWAMI PADAYACHI :—" The matter is under consideration and the appointment of the Committee will be made early."

SRI A. GOVINDASWAMY NAYAGAR :—" இப்பொழுது தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்படும் ஜில்லா போர்டு அங்கத்தினர்கள் தாலூகா போர்டு அங்கத்தினர்களாக மாற்றப்படுவார்களா அல்லது தாலூகா போர்டு தேர்தல் புதிதாக நடைபெறுமா ?"

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASWAMI PADAYACHI :—" This has nothing to do with the main question, Sir."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Sir, why cannot this be kept in abeyance till a decision to establish Taluk Boards is arrived at? "

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASWAMI PADAYACHI :—" As legislation and administrative arrangements necessary for bringing the Taluk Boards into existence will take some appreciable time, it has been decided that elections to District Boards should be proceeded with and that the District Boards should continue to function after the elections, until the Taluk Boards are set up."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Are we to understand that the principle to establish Taluk Boards has been accepted by Government and only the details remain to be worked out? "

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASWAMI PADAYACHI :—" Sir, everything is under the consideration of the Government."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" கமிட்டியை நியமனம் செய்வது பற்றி சர்க்கார் யோசனை செய்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறூர்களா ? அல்லது கமிட்டியில் யார் யாரை நியமிக்கலாம் என்பதைப்பற்றி யோசனை செய்துகொண்டிருக்கிறூர்களா ?"

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASWAMI PADAYACHI :—" கமிட்டியில் யார் யாரை நியமிக்கலாம் என்பது சர்க்காரின் யோசனையில் இருந்து வருகிறது. "

Celebration of Republic Day in 1954.

* 533 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the amount of public money spent for the celebration of Republic Day in Madras during January 1954; and

(*b*) the amount of money spent on refreshments, etc.?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) Out of the amount mentioned above a sum of Rs. 10,416–14–0 was spent in Madras.

" (*b*) Out of the amount mentioned above, a sum of Rs. 2,188–6–0 represents the cost of refreshments and Rs. 1,704 expenditure on entertainment, etc."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" Is there any direction from the Central Government that the Republic Day should be celebrated and if so, what are the directions? "